

Historic St. Mary's City

*a museum of history and
archaeology on the site of
Maryland's first capital*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNCOVER THE PAST AT HSMC

St. Mary's City, MD—Thursday, July 14, 2005— Help uncover the past at Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC), the fourth permanent settlement in British North America and one of the nation's best-preserved colonial sites! At Tidewater Archaeology Weekend, on Saturday and Sunday, July 30 and 31, 2005, the public is invited to work alongside professional archaeologists. This year, the focus is on the remains of Garrett Vansweringen's colonial inn in the heart of Maryland's first capital.

Vansweringen, a Dutch immigrant, was one of Maryland's first entrepreneurs. He was an innkeeper, brewer, and probably a baker and he may have provided medical services! Vansweringen was also very much involved in the development and politics St. Mary's City. The inn was a popular meeting place for legislators. Today, archaeologists are finding evidence of the Vansweringen's successful businesses and his customers. Guest "archaeologists" will share the excitement as artifacts are excavated and identified.

Tours of the archaeology laboratory are scheduled throughout the day. See what happens to artifacts once they are removed from the ground and how researchers can learn from them. A range of ceramics, pipes and glass recovered in previous excavations at the Vansweringen site will be shared with visitors as well as other treasures from HSMC's archaeological collections. Lab tours will take place at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. The size of the facility restricts the number of visitors, please sign up at the Visitor's Center when you arrive at the museum.

Visitors can see the historical town center through an archaeologist's eyes on a walking tour with director of research Henry Miller. Discover how HSMC is reconstructing the past using historical and archaeological research and learn about the next building to be resurrected in the ancient city. To join the one-hour excursion, meet Dr. Miller at the gazebo at 2:00 p.m.

Special activities, scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., are included in museum admission (\$7.50 adults, \$6.00 seniors and students, \$3.50 ages 6-12) along with entrance to all museum exhibits, including a representative 17th-century tall ship, the Godiah Spray

Plantation, the State House of 1676, the Woodland Indian Hamlet, and the Exhibit Hall, where visitors can see more remarkable artifacts from the Vansweringen site. For more information, please call 240-895-4990 or visit the HSMC web site, www.stmaryscity.org.

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Photos available.

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